Coordinates: 53°20′38″N 6°15′24.5″W

Library of Trinity College Dublin

The Library of Trinity College Dublin (Irish: *Leabharlann Choláiste na Tríonóide*) serves Trinity College and the University of Dublin. It is a legal deposit or "copyright library", which means that publishers in Ireland must deposit a copy of all their publications there, free of charge.[2] It is also the only Irish library to hold such rights for the United Kingdom.[2] The Library is the permanent home to the Brian Boru harp which is a national symbol of Ireland, a copy of 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, and the Book of Kells. Two of the four volumes of the Book of Kells are on public display, one opened to a major decorated page and the other to a typical page of text. The volumes and pages shown are regularly changed.[3] Members of the University of Dublin also have access to the libraries of Tallaght University Hospital and the Irish School of Ecumenics, Milltown.

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Constituent buildings

The Library proper occupies several buildings, six of which are at the Trinity College campus itself, with another part of the Trinity Centre at St James's Hospital, Dublin:

- The oldest library building, now known as the Old Library, is Thomas Burgh's magnum opus. Construction began in 1712. A large building which took twenty years to complete in its original form, it towered over the university and city after its completion in 1732. Even today, surrounded by similarly scaled buildings, it is imposing and dominates the view of the university from Nassau

The Library of Trinity College Dublin

The Long Room in the Old Library

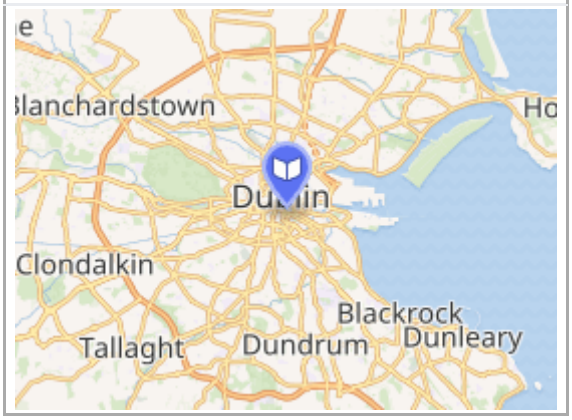
Country	Ireland
Type	Academic library
Established	1592
Location	College Street, Dublin 2
Coordinates	53°20′38″N 6°15′24.5″W
	Collection
Items collected	Books, journals, newspapers, magazines, sound and music recordings, databases, maps, prints and manuscripts
Size	c. 7,000,000 volumes
Criteria for collection	Acquisition through purchase, bequest and legal deposit
Legal deposit	Republic of Ireland (Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000) and United Kingdom (Legal Deposit Libraries Act, 2003)
	Access and use
Access requirements	Staff, graduates (reading privileges only) and students of the university. Other readers admitted

Street. The Book of Kells is located in the Old Library, along with the Book of Durrow, the Book of Howth and other ancient texts. Also incorporating the Long Room, the Old Library is one of Ireland's biggest tourist attractions, and holds thousands of rare, and in many cases very early, volumes. In the 18th century, the college received the Brian Boru harp, one of the three surviving medieval Gaelic harps, and a national symbol of Ireland, which is now housed in the Library. Housed within the Old Library are:

  - Early Printed Books and Special Collections.
  - Manuscripts & Archives.
- The Berkeley/Lecky/Ussher (BLU) Libraries complex, incorporating:
  - The Berkeley Library, in Fellows' Square. Designed by Paul Koralek of ABK Architects, an imposing Brutalist structure opened in 1967.
  - The Lecky Library, attached to the Arts Building. Also designed by ABK, officially opened in 1978.
  - The Ussher Library, overlooking College Park. Designed by McCullough Mulvin Architects, officially opened in 2003.
  - The Glucksman Map Library.
  - The Preservation and Conservation Department.
- The Hamilton Science and Engineering Library, located within the Hamilton Building.
- The 1937 Reading Room (for postgraduate use).
- The John Stearne Medical Library (JSML), housed at St James's Hospital.

Further materials are held in storage in Stacks, either in closed access within College or at a book depository in the Dublin suburb of Santry.

	under cross-institutional arrangements, or if material is unavailable elsewhere. Old Library and Library Gift Shop open to public
Other information	
Director	College Librarian and Archivist Helen Shenton
Staff	Around 180[1]
Website	http://www.tcd.ie/Library/
Map	



The Old Library Building

History

The Library began with the founding of Trinity College in 1592. In 1661, Henry Jones presented it with the Book of Kells, its most famous manuscript. James Ussher (1625–56), Archbishop of Armagh, whose most important works were *"Veterum Epistolarum Hibernicarum Sylloge"* (1632) and *"Brittanicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates"* (1639), left his valuable library, comprising several thousand printed books and manuscripts, to the Library. His complete works were published by the Library in twenty-four volumes.[4]

In 1801, the Library was given legal deposit rights, making it the only library in Ireland to have such rights for the United Kingdom at that time.[4]

Arnaldo Pomodoro's *Sfera con Sfera* (*Sphere Within Sphere*) at The Berkeley Library

Legal deposit library status

According to the Republic of Ireland's Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, the Library is entitled, along with the National Library of Ireland and the libraries of the National University of Ireland, the University of Limerick, and Dublin City University, to receive a copy of all works published in the Republic of Ireland. Also, as a result of the British Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003, which continues a more ancient right dating from 1801, the Library is entitled, along with the British Library, the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Cambridge University Library, the National Library of Wales and the National Library of Scotland, to receive a copy on request of all works published in the United Kingdom.

Many works are now being received electronically rather than in print under new UK regulations which came into force in April 2013.[5]

Long Room

The 65-metre-long (213 ft) main chamber of the Old Library, the Long Room, was built between 1712 and 1732 and houses 200,000 of the Library's oldest books. Initially, The Long Room had a flat ceiling, shelving for books only on the lower level, and an open gallery. By the 1850s the room had to be expanded as the shelves were filled due to the fact that the Library had been given permission to obtain a free copy of every book that had been published in Ireland and Britain. In 1860, The Long Room's roof was raised to accommodate an upper gallery.[6] The Long Room is lined with marble busts. The marble bust collection was formed when 14 busts from the sculptor Peter Scheemakers were acquired by the college. Many of the busts are of great philosophers, writers, and men who supported the college. The most outstanding bust in the collection is of the writer Jonathan Swift, created by Louis François Roubiliac.[6]

Detail of Long Room shelving

The Long Room also holds one of the last remaining copies of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic. This proclamation was read by Patrick Pearse near the General Post Office on 24 April 1916. Visitors may also view the Trinity College harp (also known as the "Brian Boru harp") in the Long Room that is the oldest of its kind in Ireland dating back to the 15th century. The harp is made out of oak and willow and includes 29 brass strings.[6]

Watercolour of Long Room before the roof was raised

In popular culture

The Jedi archives of the Jedi Temple in the movie *Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones* bear a startling resemblance to the Long Room of the Trinity College Library. This resemblance resulted in controversy as permission had not been sought to use the building's likeness in the film. However, Lucasfilm denied that the Long Room was the basis for the Jedi archives, and officials from Trinity College Library decided not to take any legal action.[7][8]

See also

- Category:Librarians of Trinity College Library, Dublin
- Books in the United Kingdom

References

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7. Williams, Eoghan (29 September 2002). "Trinity to strike back at return of the Jedi" (http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/trinity-to-strike-back-at-return-of-the-jedi-26244343.html). The Irish Independent. Retrieved 30 July 2015.
8. "Jedi Archives Clones Long Room, Trinity Attacks" (http://archiseek.com/2002/jedi-archives-clones-long-room-trinity-attacks/). *Archiseek*. Retrieved 30 July 2015.

Further reading

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- Fox, Peter "The Librarians of Trinity College", in: Vincent Kinane, Anne Walsh, eds., *Essays on the History of Trinity College Library, Dublin*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2000 ISBN 1-85182-467-7

External links

- Trinity College Library Dublin (http://www.tcd.ie/library/)
- Search the Library's catalogue (http://stella.catalogue.tcd.ie)
- The Library of Trinity College Dublin at Google Cultural Institute (https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/partner/trinity-college-dublin-library)
- 360-degree panorama of the Long Room Library (https://panoramicireland.com/guide-to-ireland/360-degree-panoramas-of-ireland/trinity-college-360-degree-panorama)

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